Reviewer’s report

Title: Tissue Doppler and Strain imaging: anything left in the Echo-Lab?

Version: 1 Date: 14 September 2008

Reviewer: Luna Gargani

Reviewer’s report:

This is a nice, useful paper, focusing on the role of Tissue Doppler and Strain in the everyday practice of an echolab. The Authors underline a very important issue in the echocardiography field, as many energies, time and money are employed in research trials on parameters that often will never be applied in clinical practice.

I would suggest to reduce the number of references (if possible, below fifty references).

I would add a sentence, to stress more the main difference between TDI and strain, as TDI has actually entered the clinical arena for the assessment of diastolic function. You may cite on this purpose the Consensus Statement by Paulus et al (How to diagnose diastolic heart failure: a consensus statement on the diagnosis of heart failure with normal left ventricular ejection fraction by the Heart Failure and Echocardiography Associations of the European Society of Cardiology. Eur Heart J. 2007 Oct;28(20):2539-50.)

Some minor comments:

- Page 2, line 3: I would add a comma between “claiming” and “the feasibility”.
- Page 3, line 5: I would add a comma between “function” and “that”.
- Page 3, line 12: “why has this published data” should be “why have these published data”.
- Page 5, line 6: I would add commas as indicated “around the pixel examined, which is followed in the various frames, comprising the time period...”.
- Page 5, line 12: I would add a comma as indicated “that happen in such short time periods, to elude the resolution of the human eye”.
- Page 5, line 18: “to fill this very knowledge gap” should be “to fill this big (or important) knowledge gap”.
- Page 6, line 3: “In addition, only recently were attempts made to standardize” should be “In addition, only recently attempts were made to standardize”. "
- Page 6, line 11: I would add a comma as indicated “with prevalent longitudinal contraction, determining...”.
- Page 6, line 14: “left anterior descending coronary artery” should be “left anterior descending coronary artery”.
- Page 6, line 16: I would add a comma as indicated “contractile function of acute
ischemia, that have already been...”.

- Page 8, line 15: “A peak ystolic velocity” should be “A peak systolic velocity.
- Page 9: Please, always refer to the more standardized term “contractile dyssynchrony”, instead of asynchrony.
- Page 11, line 12: “prevalently diastolic myocardial function” should be “prevalently diastolic myocardial dysfunction”.
- Page 12, line 17: immediatness should be immediateness.
- Reference 40: the correct title is “Detection of early abnormalities of left ventricular function by hemodynamic, echo-tissue Doppler imaging, and mitral Doppler flow techniques in patients with coronary artery disease and normal ejection fraction.”
- References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text.
- Indications on figures should always be in English.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.